

A BILLIARD BET

By HARRIS DEEMS

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Mr. James Hardon was a mild looking young man, with light sandy hair carefully parted down the center of his head. That he looked milder and younger than he really was, may or may not have been his fault—it certainly was not his misfortune.

He had arrived two days previously at the little town of Coleman, to recuperate after a fatiguing winter season.

Quite what his occupation was very few people knew. He occasionally backed horses—to lose; knew a few card tricks with which he amused strangers; and a good many more which he neither showed to them nor amused them with. He was a fairly good pigeon shot; and an exceptionally clever billiard player.

Coleman had been recommended to him by his bosom friend, Samuel Dugger, who was a native of the place.

On this particular afternoon he was gazing mildly at the "Freemason's Hotel" debating whether he should enter or not. After a few minutes cogitation he sauntered in, and made for the billiard room.

Calling for a scotch and soda, he lit a cigarette, and stood watching a pale faced, lanky individual awkwardly knocking the balls about the table.

"Do you play?" queried that gentleman, catching Mr. Hardon's interested look.

"You can hardly call it playing," he replied, hesitatingly. Seeing he made a fairly comfortable living with his billiards, this was perhaps a fact. "Besides, I'm awfully out of practice."

"So'm I," confessed the young man; "I was just knocking the balls about to see if I remembered the game."

"Well, I don't mind trying my hand," murmured Mr. Hardon. "Right!" cried the young man, briskly. "What shall it be? Fifty up?"

"Fifty up? Oh, that means we've got to make 50 points doesn't it?" "Yes," said the young man, chalking the tip of his cue industriously; "the man who makes 50 first wins."

"I see! Which ball do I have? I've almost forgotten."

About 20 minutes play, when the game stood 10 to 12, the young man carelessly suggested having a little something up on it.

"Well, I'm not a gambler," stated Mr. Hardon, "but I don't mind half a dollar."

"Go ahead, then, it's your play."

"Playing ping-pong?" inquired a gentleman who had entered whilst the game was in progress, after the two innocents had sent their balls on the floor half a dozen times.

At the end of an hour's play Mr. Hardon raced out a winner by 50 to 46; and it is doubtful if he would have won then had not the pale-faced young man sent his last two balls on the ground.

"Let's have another game," suggested the loser, paying over his 50 cents.

"Don't forget they close at 12," offensively remarked the gentleman who had been watching the game.

"I don't mind," answered Mr. Hardon, ignoring this individual. "Same stakes?"

"Let's have a decent bit up on it this time, seeing we're about level. What do you say to ten dollars?"

"Go ahead, then," said Mr. Hardon.

"See here," exclaimed the spectator who by his greasy appearance seemed to be a butcher, addressing Mr. Hardon, "you're both pretty bad players, but I rather fancy the other chap is a bit better than you."

"You do, do you?" answered Mr. Hardon, blandly.

"Yes! And in spite of your winning the last game I'm ready to back him."

"Let me see," reflected Mr. Hardon, "I won the game on a strange table."

"Then what'll you back him for?" he asked, suddenly.

"Same as the stakes. Ten."

"Done with you," said Mr. Hardon, picking up his cue.

The pale young man and his backer exchanged knowing glances.

"Go it," cried the former as his opponent bent over the table.

And Mr. Hardon did "go it" to the extent of making a beautiful little break of 22.

"Here, what do you call this?" blustered the greasy gentleman.

"Billiards," said Mr. Hardon, mildly. "What did you think it was?"

"Ping-pong?"

"Shut up, Barker," said the young man, irritably, "you put me out."

Gritting his teeth he surveyed the table darkly. The balls were too badly placed for him to make more than ten.

Muttering viciously, he gave place to Mr. Hardon and watched that gentleman while he handled the balls as if they were alive.

Playing with rare skill, he put together an admirable 18.

The landlord entered the room at this moment and stood watching the game.

"Knows how to play," he observed to the butcher as Mr. Hardon made the winning stroke.

"Knows a little too much for his health," was the irritable reply.

"Knows a little too much for Tom,

at any rate," said the landlord, glancing at the scoring board.

Mr. Barker made no reply; he was thinking deeply. In fact so deeply that it required several nudges from Mr. Hardon to bring to his mind the fact that he owed him ten dollars.

For awhile he stood talking billiards with the landlord, whilst Mr. Barker and the lanky young man discussed affairs in a savage undertone.

"Say," said the lanky youth, and denly addressing Mr. Hardon, "he cause you whacked me, don't think you can play, you know."

"Great Scott, no!" replied Mr. Hardon, scornfully.

"Because," continued the young man, controlling himself with an effort, "we've got much better players here."

"I don't doubt it," said Mr. Hardon, cordially.

Pushing his agitated companion into a chair, Mr. Barker came forward.

"What'd you say to backing yourself for \$500 with one of our own local men?" he inquired.

"Delighted," was the reply.

"Well, then, I'll bet you an even five hundred that we produce a local man the day after to-morrow to smash you."

"Done! He must be a bonafide yokel—I beg pardon, I mean local—how ever."

Being reassured on this point, Mr. Hardon left the room with the firm conviction that, as a holiday resort, Coleman wanted some beating.

At the appointed hour Mr. Hardon



"Now Suppose You Give Me One Made by the U. S. A."

entered the crowded billiard room of the "Freemason's Hotel." There was silence as he walked over to the corner where his friend, the butcher and the lanky young man, were. "Two to one on the city cuss," cried a voice.

"This is your man," said the butcher, waving his hand towards a gentleman sitting near.

Though in his opponent Mr. Hardon saw his bosom friend Mr. Samuel Dugger, he made no sign of recognition.

"Is this gentleman a native of the place?" he inquired.

A chorus of triumphant voices quickly vouched for this.

As soon as it was seen that Mr. Hardon was resolved to play the match out, a tired-looking stranger announced it as his conviction that he would win. Immediately he was surrounded by a throng of excited betting men, who expressed their disbelief in this statement at five to four against.

While the tired looking stranger—waking up slightly—was busy making entries in his notebook, Mr. Hardon, standing by his opponent's side, was seized with the spirit of prophecy.

"I win!" he muttered, apparently to himself.

"Helves," sighed Mr. Dugger into his half empty glass.

The ensuing game is remembered by the sporting inhabitants of Coleman to this day.

From the first stroke it was a neck and neck race; and when, the score standing at 96 all, Mr. Dugger in a moment of great excitement missed his stroke, even his backers murmured nothing but words of sympathy.

Mr. Hardon, with a white face, chalked his cue carefully, as, however, with a tricky ball he cannoned and went off the white, a muffled groan went round the room.

"My game, I think," he said, with a smile.

On leaving the hotel he met Mr. Dugger outside.

"Hello," was that gentleman's greeting, "thought it was you when they wired me."

"What did they offer you?"

"A hundred for a win, twenty for a lose. I brought Johnnie down to make a book in case it was you."

"Three hundred and twenty-four," said Johnnie, coming up at that moment.

"Add on your five hundred—"

calculated Mr. Dugger.

"And the twenty," put in Mr. Hardon.

"Not bad, eh?"

OUR FASHION LETTER



Visiting Costumes for Early Spring Wear

It seems that many of the mid-winter evening costumes are prophetic of the fashions that are to bloom in the spring, for many of the evening effects will be later utilized and developed in the spring novelties. Popularity of the striped pattern is exemplified in the use of striped chiffons and gauzes for the newest evening gowns. Yellow is being emphasized at the present time and much development may be expected along these lines.

In speaking of evening dress, we are reminded of the temptation which comes sometimes to wear such dress under the impression that it will look smarter than the ordinary walking costume. The evening dress, when brought out into the daylight, has a fatal habit of betraying its secret, unless it be some evening dress of dark velvet which has by providential forethought been supplied with two bodies. But to fill up a décolletage and imagine it will not reveal the fact is to write yourself down amongst the optimists born to be deceived.

It would seem that silks are tremendously in favor, and it is whispered that the early spring time will see the cloth costumes ousted from the privilege of being regarded as fit for afternoon parties and weddings.

Speaking of weddings, we are reminded that the young girl may have the satisfaction of falling back upon her summer attire for suitable gown in which to attend, provided it includes a white cloth coat and skirt, and she can by some means possess herself of a white fur boa and muffs, and a white fur hat, or a black or brown hat, she may rely upon her youth to carry the day with grace and appropriateness.

The fashionable world seems to continue to devote itself mainly to em-



A Type of the Gibson Coat.

broderies and applications of lace and net, and gowns of cloth and silk are heavily traced with silk and chenille, while gold lace and silver lace are decked with padded silk roses and embroidered leaves. Chiffon also enjoys patronage as a medium for decoration, and those padded leaves and garlands of flowers made in chiffon decked with tinsel threads or silken lines are noticeable on many of the silk model gowns.

There is a strong tendency among young unmarried women, even debutantes, to wear satins, not merely the supple liberty variety, but the rich, heavy qualities, and many are wearing them. These must, however,

draw the line at brocade. The older unmarried women, around 30, if stately, may appear in the rich fabric and be appropriately clothed. It should, however, always be borne in mind that brocade is not suitable for short, too-plump figures. It looks best on the Juno type, but the slight woman can wear it well if she is tall.

The girlish matron has a more fitting frame in crepe de chine and all the delicate, clinging fabrics, than brocades and velvets.

One thing is certain, no woman can be dressed to show off her own particular style, or charms of face and figure and expression, without studying them carefully and weighing carefully the comments—including both compliments and criticisms, especially the latter—of her friends, and also more particularly of those who are not friends. Unless, indeed, she have a modiste who understands her style thoroughly and who decides for her just what she shall wear and when she shall wear it.

The Gibson coat continues much in favor and is decidedly smart looking when made in good quality serge or black, navy or cream colorings. It is lined to the waist with silk and finished off with touches of trimming in the way of collar, cuffs and buttons, which show such clever and artistic schemes of color and contrasted fabrics.

On a dark blue serge coat there is a collar of pastel mauve cloth, bordered with silken braids in soft blue, green and mauve shadings, while the color contrast is introduced again on the cuffs, and into the center of the waistband at the back. Then a white serge coat combines in its collar and cuffs, mauve cloth, palest green silk, green and white braid, and a most telling touch of black satin, while the big buttons at either side in front are in white serge centered with green silk. And there are dozens of different combinations.

Much of the spring millinery retains the imprint of the Empire period. The mushroom shape will be strongly prevalent. Paris is still using the Empire hat, and almost every conceivable form of the mushroom, which is a modern adaptation of the Empire, will be seen during the spring.

Among the novelties in millinery will be hats made entirely of flowers. Petal hats will be the newest form. Models in all of the newest shapes will be seen made of rose petals in white, pink, pale blue, cream color and yellow. The frames thus covered will be sometimes trimmed with other flowers, roses being especially favored, or again ribbon will form the chief decoration. It has been some time since the flower petal hat has had a big vogue.

"Assassins" of the East.

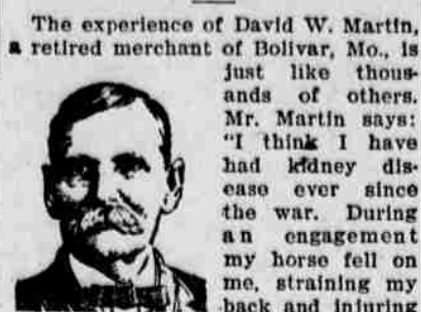
"Assassin," according to De Murray's dictionary, "retains so much of its original application as to be used chiefly of the murderer of a public personage, who is generally hired or devoted to the deed, and aims purely at the death of the victim." The original assassins were organized Moslem fanatics who flourished in Lebanon at the time of the crusades, and were commissioned by their chief, the Old Man of the Mountain, to murder Christian kings and leaders. They took their name from the drug hashish, with which they intoxicated themselves for their work. For a long time "assassin" retained the idea of an emissary of some chief or party.

Imitating the Man.

"Don't be too hard on a chile for wantin' his own way," said Uncle Eben. "De chances are dat dat's what his father has been down town kickin' for all day."

HARDSHIPS OF ARMY LIFE.

Left Thousands of Veterans with Kidney Troubles.



The experience of David W. Martin, a retired merchant of Bolivar, Mo., is just like thousands of others. Mr. Martin says: "I think I have had kidney disease ever since the war. During an engagement my horse fell on me, straining my back and injuring the kidneys. I have been told I had a floating kidney. I had intense pain in the back, headaches and dizzy spells and the action of the bladder was very irregular. About three years ago I tried Doan's Kidney Pills, and found such great relief that I continued, and inside a comparatively short time was entirely rid of kidney trouble."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Senator's Long Life.

Senator Pettus was a lieutenant in the Mexican war; he rode horseback to California with the "forty-niners" and was advanced from the rank of major to that of brigadier general in the confederate army. He was admitted to the bar at Gainesville, Ala., when he became 21 years of age. At this time Texas was an independent republic, California was a part of Mexico and Great Britain was disputing the American claim to the Oregon country. Andrew Jackson was then supreme in politics and was yet to succeed in making Polk president of the United States.

THIS IS WORTH SAVING.

Valuable Advice and Recipe by Well-Known Authority.

The following simple home-made mixture is said to relieve any form of Rheumatism or bacheache, also cleanse and strengthen the Kidneys and Bladder, overcoming all urinary disorders, if taken before the stage of Bright's disease: Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Sarsaparilla, three ounces. Mix by shaking well in a bottle and take in teaspoonful doses after meals and at bedtime.

A well-known authority states that these ingredients are mainly of vegetable extraction, and harmless to use, and can be obtained at small cost from any good prescription pharmacy. Those who think they have kidney trouble or suffer with lame back or weak bladder or Rheumatism, should give this prescription a trial, as no harm can possibly follow its use, and it is said to do wonders for some people.

SOME POINTS ABOUT NEEDLES.

The Evolved Product of Centuries of Invention.

The point of a needle is a very important part of that useful little instrument, and there are many points about needles calculated to interest the general public. The daily consumption of needles all over the world is something like 3,000,000, while every year the women of the United States break, lose and use some 300,000,000 of those tiny tools. Few people while threading a needle have ever given a thought to the various processes through which the wire must pass before it comes out a needle. Yet the manufacture of needles includes some 21 different processes from cutting the wire and threading the double needles by the eyes to separating the two needles on the one length of wire, heading, hardening in oil, cleaning out the sides of the eye, point-setting, and final polishing. For wrapping purple paper is used, since it prevents rusting. There are many sorts of needles, for surgeons, cooks, glove-makers, weavers, sailmakers, broom-makers, milliners and dressmakers' use. The needle is the evolved product of centuries of invention. In its primitive form it was made of bone, ivory, or wood. Point by point its manufacture has improved, until this little but not insignificant instrument is now one of the highly-finished products of twentieth century machinery and skill.—Zion's Herald.

A FRIEND'S TIP.

70-Year-Old Man Not too Old to Accept a Food Pointer.

"For the last 20 years," writes a Maine man, "I've been troubled with Dyspepsia and liver complaint, and have tried about every known remedy without much in the way of results until I took up the food question."

"A friend recommended Grape-Nuts food, after I had taken all sorts of medicines with only occasional, temporary relief."

"This was about nine months ago, and I began the Grape-Nuts for breakfast with cream and a little sugar. Since then I have had the food for at least one meal a day, usually for breakfast."

"Words fail to express the benefit I received from the use of Grape-Nuts. My stomach is almost entirely free from pain and my liver complaint is about cured, I have gained flesh, sleep well can eat nearly any kind of food except greasy, starchy things and am strong and healthy at the age of 70 years."

"If I can be the means of helping any poor mortal who has been troubled with dyspepsia as I have been, I am willing to answer any letter enclosing stamp." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in page, "There's a Reason."

Pure White Lead is the Natural Paint Pigment



Numerous compounds are being offered to take the place of white lead as a paint, but no real substitute for it has yet been found. Pure White Lead has a peculiar property of amalgamating with the wood upon which it is used—added to this it has an elasticity which permits the paint to follow the natural expansion and contraction of the wood. Pure White Lead (with its full natural tenacity and elasticity, unimpaired by adulterants), alone fulfills all the requirements of the ideal paint. Every keg which bears the Dutch Boy trade mark is positively guaranteed to be absolutely Pure White Lead made by the Old Dutch Process.



SEND FOR BOOK

"A Talk on Paint," gives valuable information on the paint subject. Sent free upon request.

NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY

In whichever of the following cities is nearest you:

New York, Boston, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia (John T. Lewis & Bro. Co.), Pittsburgh (National Lead & Oil Co.)

Products from Pine.

In 1905 the pine distilling establishments in the United States numbered 15; the wood distilled amounted to 16,969 cords, valued at \$42,805, and the output was as follows: 362,500 gallons of tar, 434,780 gallons of oil, 238,180 gallons of turpentine and 300,106 bushels of charcoal.

Sheer white goods, in fact, any fine wash goods when new, owe much of their attractiveness to the way they are laundered, this being done in a manner to enhance their textile beauty. Home laundering would be equally satisfactory if proper attention was given to starching, the first essential being good Starch, which has sufficient strength to stiffen, without thickening the goods. Try Defiance Starch and you will be pleasantly surprised at the improved appearance of your work.

In His Father's Footsteps.

Allan Sankey, son of the famous singing revivalist, is following his father's footsteps as a composer, and some of his hymns are popular in New England revival meetings.

Give Defiance Starch a fair trial—try it for both hot and cold starching, and if you don't think you do better work, in less time and at smaller cost, return it and your grocer will give you back your money.

Cardinal Fond of Golf. Cardinal Merry del Val, the Pope's secretary of state, is a keen golfer. Twice in each week he plays over a private course in the grounds of the Villa Doria-Pamphili.

There are 25 brigadier generals in the United States army.

AWFUL NEURALGIA

Pain Turned This Woman's Hair White but She Was Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Do not seek relief from suffering simply, but free your system from the disease which is the cause of your suffering. That is the message which a former victim of neuralgia sends to those who are still in its grasp. Hot applications, powders that deaden the senses and others that reduce the heart action may cause temporary relief but the pain is sure to return with greater intensity.

Mrs. Evelyn Creusere, who has a beautiful home at 811 Boulevard West, Detroit, Mich., suffered for years with neuralgia until she tried this tonic treatment. She says:

"My trouble began about six years ago and I did not rest as I should have, but kept up about my many duties. After a time I became so weak I could not do any work at all. I had severe backaches and such dreadful headaches in the back part and top of my head. My eyes were easily tired and at times I saw black spots before them. I consulted several doctors but without the slightest benefit. The pains were so intense that my hair turned white."

"I lost continually in weight and strength and was almost in despair when a friend recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I tried them according to directions and soon began to feel relief. At the end of three months I had gained ten pounds in weight and had no more trouble with my nerves. I have been in perfect health ever since and can heartily commend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or sent postpaid, on receipt of price, 50 cents per box, six boxes for \$2.50, by the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.



DEFIANCE STARCH—16 ounces in the package—either starched only 15 minutes—same price and "DEFIANCE" is SUPERIOR QUALITY.